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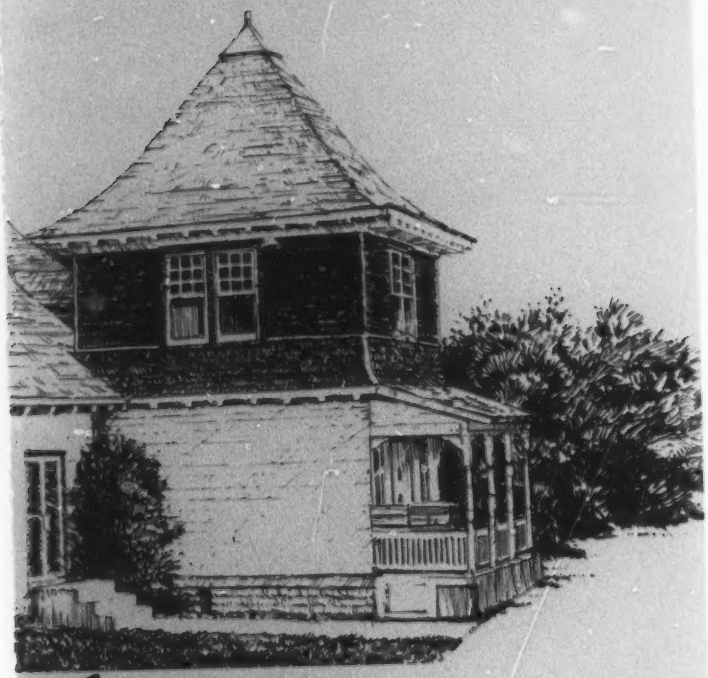
Spearfish National Fish Hatchery



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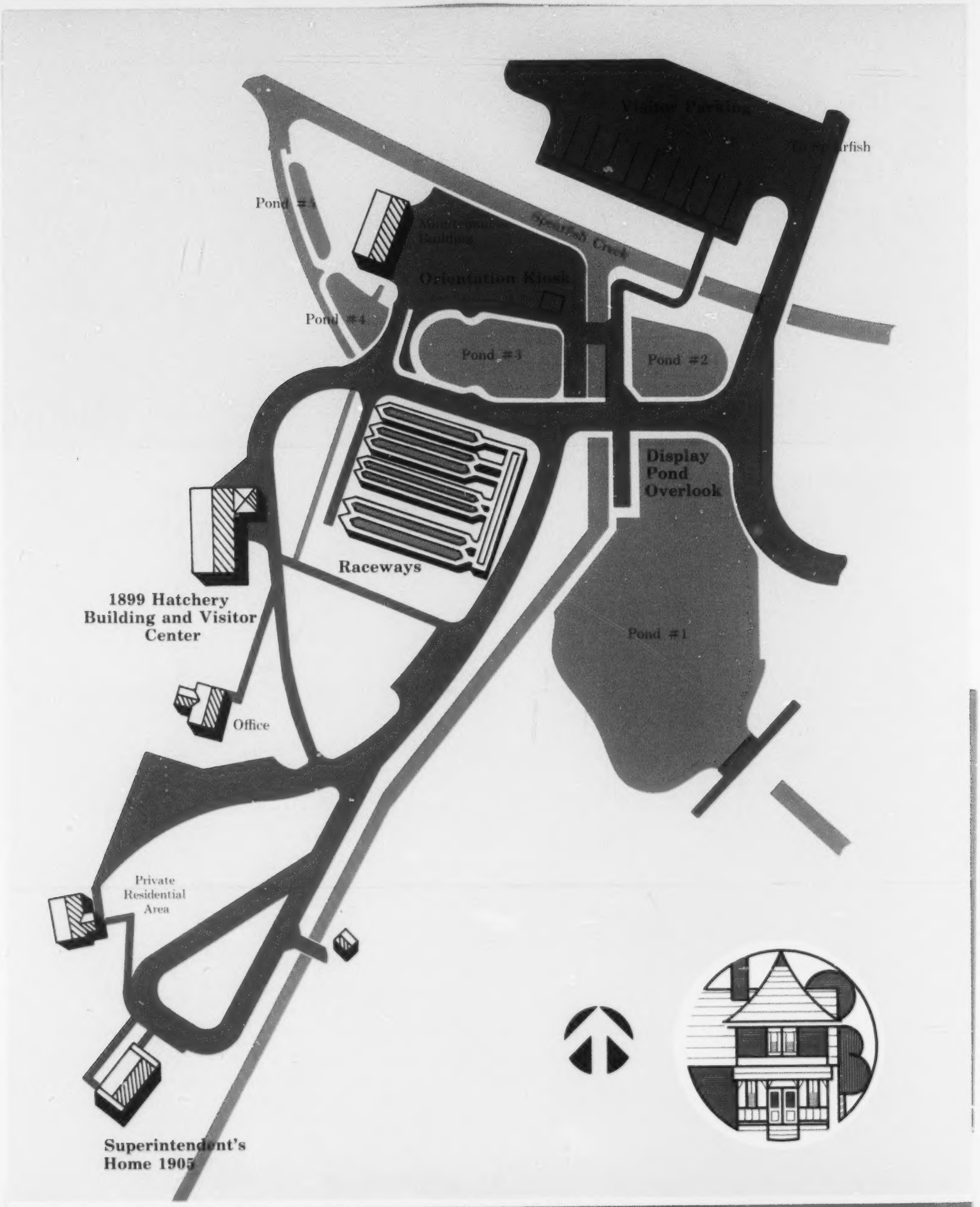
Pond #5
Pond #4
Pond #3
Pond #2
Pond #1
Orientation Kiosk
Raceways
Display Pond Overlook
1899 Hatchery Building and Visitor Center
Office
Private Residential Area
Superintendent's Home 1905

The Spearfish Fisheries Complex, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has played an important role in the history of the northern Black Hills. The Center currently encompasses three attractive sites:

Spearfish National Fish Hatchery has its roots in the early recreational fishing industry in the Black Hills. Despite the fact that no trout were native to the Hills, experimental trout plants were successful and area residents petitioned for a foderal trout hatchery. The new Spearfish hatchery was completed in July, 1899. Today the original hatchery building has been restored as a visitor center featuring historic displays from the horse and wagon era of fisheries to modern hatchery operations. Located in the town of Spearfish, the attractive hatchery grounds invite leisurely strolling.

McNenny National Fish Hatchery is located 12 miles west of Spearfish in an oasis of artesian wells and springs, surrounded by High Plains grasslands. Completed in 1952, the station is the backbone of the trout production and stocking programs for the Complex. Some 3/4 million rainbow, lake and brown trout are hatched and reared annually at McNenny for stocking in the Black Hills region. As natural spawning areas are limited in the hills, recreational fishermen depend heavily on hatcheries for their catch. Many lakes and streams are stocked periodically throughout the spring and summer months to sustain good fishing.

Ranch A/Technical and Education Center is the newest addition to the Complex, and is situated at the headwaters of Sand Creek about 5 miles south of Beulah, Wyoming. The Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the property and its excellent water resources in 1963 for use as a fish genetics research station. Although genetics work is no longer conducted here, applied research continues on-site with the Diet Development Center, which develops and tests fish feeds for use nationally. Modern lab facilities form an interesting contrast to the formal grounds and log retreat lodge of historic Ranch A. The estate was built in the 1930s for Moses L. Annenberg, a wealthy eastern publisher. Original log buildings house a regional meeting and education center and are open to public tours on a scheduled basis.

For further information, contact Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Spearfish Fisheries Complex, P.O. Box 352, Spearfish, SD. 57783.

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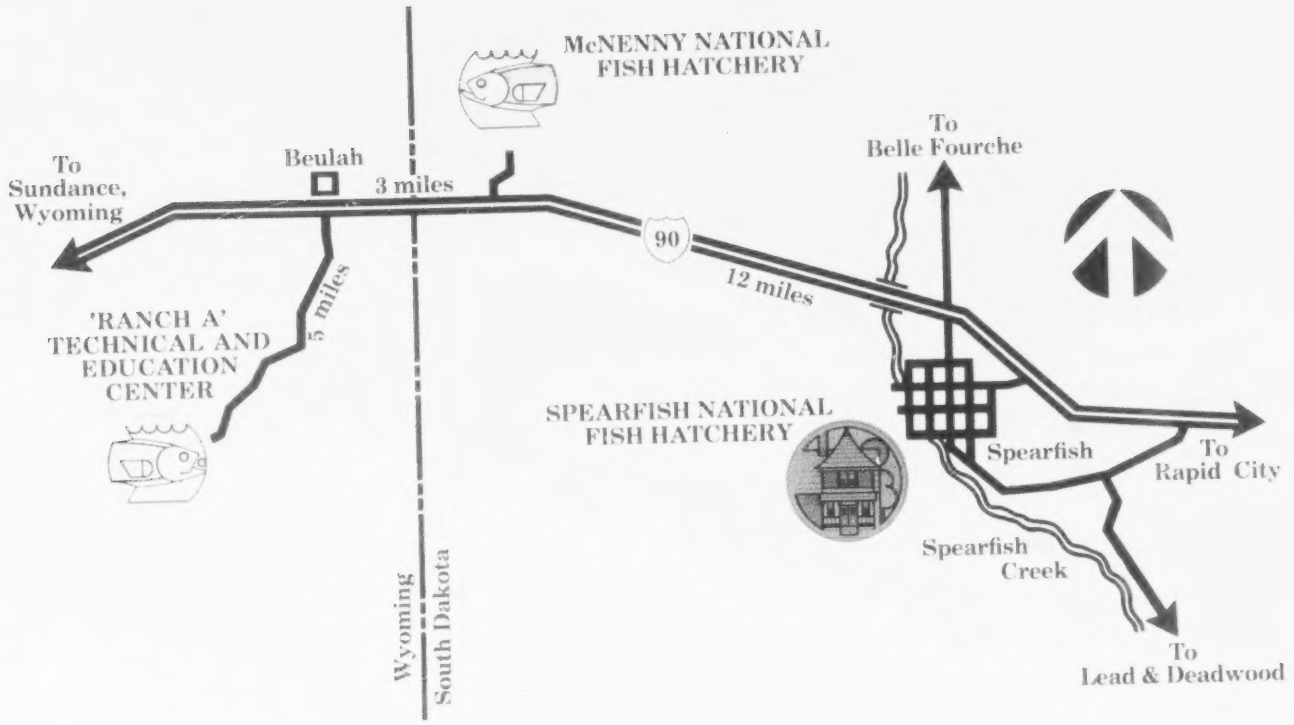

McNenny National Fish Hatchery, the operational base for trout production

Ranch A, the most recent addition to the Complex

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SPEARFISH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

Historic roots of the Black Hills recreational fishing industry germinated in the late 19th century, when there were no native trout in the lakes and streams of the Hills. Successful trout plants and public pressure led to the selection of Spearfish as the site of a new federal trout hatchery. Spearfish National Fish Hatchery was completed in July of 1899, just in time to receive its first shipment of trout eggs from Colorado.

For many years, the Spearfish hatchery served as headquarters for federal hatchery operations in much of the West, including the Yellowstone National Park fisheries. Major horse and wagon expeditions were made annually to Yellowstone Lake to spawn the native trout. Eggs collected there not only supplied Spearfish hatchery, but were also shipped all across the United States and to several foreign countries.

The hatchery enjoyed a long history of trout production and training programs, despite being plagued with water supply problems—either too little from its springs or too much from the flooding of Spearfish Creek. The droughts and depression of the 1930s brought W.P.A. crews to the hatchery to construct new raceways, rebuild ponds, reinforce flood walls and make other improvements to better utilize water from Spearfish Creek. However, further declines in water quality finally led to the construction of a new hatchery at McNenny Springs, 12 miles west of town, in 1952.

Although the Spearfish hatchery no longer hatches trout eggs, it still plays an important role in the rearing of trout during the final growth stages before stocking. The original hatchery building has been restored as a visitor center featuring historic fisheries displays. Visitors are also invited to stroll around the gracious, shaded grounds and active trout rearing ponds.